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COUNTRY Indonesia

SUBJECT Communists in Benkulen Area and Mentawai  
Archipelago and Local Opposition

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1. Pesindo Communist leaders have established cells in the Mentawai Islands. There is a total of 150 Communist followers on the islands of Sipora, South-ern and Northern Pagai, and at Saibi on the island of Siberut. These fol-lowers are mostly fishermen and coconut planters and they have been asked by Pesindo to "render all facilities to international Communists, irrespect-ive of race".
2. Among the leaders active in the organization of these cells are the following:
  - a. Raden Mohammed Ali Hanifah, chairman of the council of Pesindo at Ben-kulen. He is about 30 years of age, was born at Tengah-Padang, Ben-kulen, and is presently residing at Tjurup.
  - b. Baksir, deputy chairman of the council of Pesindo at Benkulen. He is about 52 years of age, was born at Mana, Benkulen Residency, and is presently residing at Pengan-Tungan, Benkulen. Baksir is Regent of Benkulen, a graduate of the Opleiding School voor Indische Ambtenaren (Dutch Civil Officials Training School), Purwokerto, Middle Java, and is a father-in-law of Lieut. Colonel Berlian, commandant of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) brigade at Benkulen.
  - c. Djafri, secretary of Pesindo at Benkulen and chief of staff of the Pesindo armed forces. He is about 35 years of age, was born at Padang, Sumatra, and is a graduate of the Hoogere Kweekschool (Dutch College for Head-masters' Training), Bandung.
  - d. Raden Abdullah, assistant secretary of Pesindo at Benkulen. He is about 45 years of age, a former official in the Dutch Civil Service, and is pre-sently working as an official on the staff of Dr. Isah, Republican Gover-nor of South Sumatra, at Tjurup.
3. The attack of 1946 on the Chinese at Sindang, central Sumatra, was led by the four leaders mentioned above, assisted by the following:
  - a. Dawud,
  - b. Lieut. Colonel Berlian, Commandant of the TNI brigade at Benkulen,
  - c. Major Burhan, who was dismissed for killing one of his own soldiers,
  - d. Captain Burhan, who is in charge of a TNI company at Benkulen.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. An organization called the Bendjaga Kesamaran Masyarakat (PKM), Guardian of the Society's Security, is a movement of moderate nationalists opposing the activities of the Communist Pesindo. The leaders of the organization are:

- a. Mustafa, chairman of PKM at Benkulen. He is about 45 years of age, a graduate of Opleiding School voor Indische Ambtenaren, and lives at Pintu-Batu, Benkulen. He is civil police commissioner at Benkulen.
- b. Mohammed Yasin, a colonel and chairman of the Mahkamah Tentara (Indonesian Courts Martial), Benkulen. He is about 45 years of age, a graduate of Opleiding School voor Indische Ambtenaren, and lives at Kebon Ros, Benkulen. Yasin has caused a number of TNI officers to be jailed in Benkulen and Pageralam.
- c. Mera Usman, inspector of finance on the staff of Dr. Isah. He is a graduate of Opleiding School voor Indische Ambtenaren and lives at Pintu-Batu, Benkulen, opposite the house of Mustafa.

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